ARIZONA SITE STEWARD PROGRAM



ARIZONA STATE PARKS 2008

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Figure 1. Geographic Zones of Arizona.

These zones are fundamental to the understanding of how the culture history of Arizona fluoresced. The Plateau, which after 10,000 years ago had few lakes and was dependent on a few major riverine systems, became what is known today as the Anasazi and was later influenced by the Mogollon. The Sinagua and Mogollon developed in the Transition Zone, which has greater eco-diversity than the other regions. The Hohokam and Patayatan cultures developed in the Basin and Range Desert Zone. At an earlier stage the Paleo Indians also developed in the Basin Range region when this was more of a Savannah/intermittent swamp ecosystem. All of these groups developed essentially different cultures in response to their diverse environments

PALEOINDIAN PERIOD

The Paleo-Indians sparsely occupied parts of the eastern half of what is now Arizona from the Colorado Plateau to the southern deserts approximately 12,000 to 10,500 years ago. The Paleo-Indians were primarily gatherers who supplemented their diet with mammoth, mastodon, and other now extinct species. While Paleo-Indians are found throughout North America, their material culture has regional variations. In Arizona, their



Figure 2. Folsom Point Photo courtesy ASP.



Figure 3. Clovis point Photo courtesy of NPS.

tool tradition includes a distinctive Clovis point (such as the one shown at left) and heavy-duty scrapers. While they are best known for these stone tools, evidence has been found for unusual faunal tools made out of mammoth and other bone. Some of their bone artifacts show decorative cross-hatching elements.

At this time, Arizona was much damper and cooler with pinon, juniper, and oak woodlands existing in what is today desert (Mabry, Freeman & Faught 1997:14). They appear to have inhabited large areas of territory in small bands and actively hunted in marshlands. Evidence for textiles from this period is non-existent in Arizona although cordage has been found in other Paleo-Indian sites in North America. Paleo-Indians did **not** produce pottery nor did they have horticulture. Suggestions of social structure are based on parallels to contemporary band level societies and not on actual empirical evidence.

The Folsom point shown at left is part of a late Paleo-Indian Complex that is found primarily in the Colorado Plateau and Mogollon Rim areas of Arizona. It immediately follows the Clovis. It appears to be an adaptation to the gradual warming trend that occurred throughout this period. The points themselves are more finely made than the earlier Clovis points and are often found in association with bison. Presence of burnt human bones at one site in Arizona indicates that the Folsom may have cremated their dead (Hesse et al 1996). There is some suggestion that the few Folsom sites found in Arizona were the result of isolated, wetter, cooler biomes that were reminiscent of the earlier Clovis period environs. These "islands" allowed the PaleoIndian tradition to linger longer while the rest of Arizona transitioned into what is called the Early Archaic.

So, how and why did the Paleo-Indians come to what is now Arizona? What precisely is the relationship of the Paleo-Indian groups to the later Archaic period cultural developments in Arizona? At this time, these are still a major research questions that need to be answered.

TIMESPANS OF PALEOINDIAN AND ARCHAIC PROJECTILE POINT TYPES IN THE SOUTHWEST

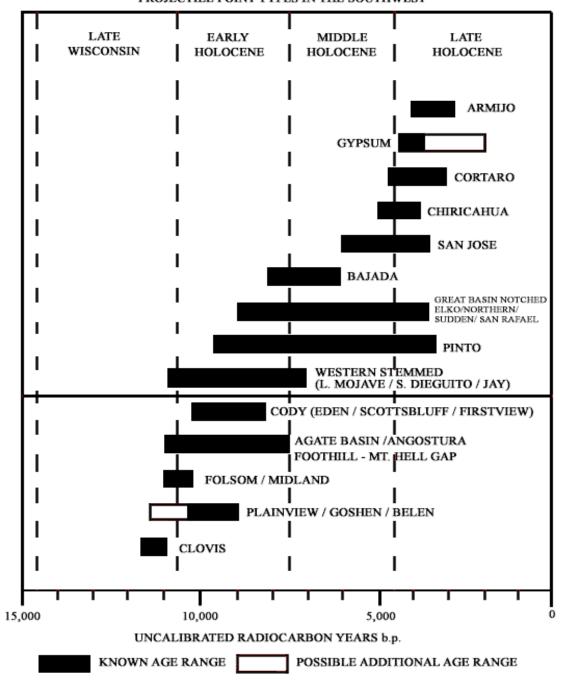


Figure 4. Radiocarbon Age Ranges of Paleo-Indian and Archaic Points. Courtesy of Jonathan B. Mabry, Desert Archaeology, Inc.

The Early Archaic (approx.12,000-10,500/ 9500-8000 years ago) is believed to have evolved out of the Clovis tradition in much, but not all, of the state. While much of what we know about this culture is based on projectile points, textiles such as sandals woven on the Colorado Plateau dating back to 8300 years ago provide greater insight into the technology of these people. The greatest density of the Early Archaic sites is found in the southwest region of the state between the Bill Williams and Gila Rivers. They were hunters and gatherers who covered less territory than their predecessors, but appear to have used a wider range of the available resources.



Figure 5. Early Archaic Cody point. Photo courtesy of NPS.



Figure 6. Pinto point from the Middle Archaic. Photo courtesy of NPS.

The Late Archaic in Arizona shows a swift increase in population around 5,500 years ago in the Colorado Plateau and the eastern half of the state and spreads throughout all but the far north eastern part of the state. About 4,500 years ago maize is introduced but does not become a staple of the economy. Projectile point designs become more diverse as seen at right. Hafting changes from being tied with fibers to an adhesive. Split twig figurines develop in the Colorado Plateau and associated with religious ceremonies.

Middle Archaic (approx. 9,500-8,000/5,000-5,500 years ago) sites are rare in Arizona. The primary explanation for this is the Archaic Altithermal, a period of intense warming that caused desert-like conditions over large portions of the southern United States. Sites from this time period have been found primarily in the eastern mountain regions of the state. Middle Archaic points are smaller and notched (as seen in the photo at left); designed more for atlatl use than as the thrusting spears found during the Paleo-Indian Period.



Figure 7. Examples of Archaic Points from the Tucson Basin. Photo courtesy of Mabry.

Traditionally, the end of the Archaic is defined by the introduction of pottery, the bow and arrow, and agriculture, which allowed a sedentary, village-based society as opposed to the more nomadic groups of the Archaic and Paleo-Indian periods.

The fact that these attributes occurred at widely disparate times throughout the state means that there is often some quibbling among archaeologists over when Archaic Period actually transition into the more commonly known cultures. For example, the full array of corn, beans, and squash do not appear until between 1500-1000 BC on the Colorado plateau. Does this then introduce the break between the Anasazi Culture and the Late Archaic groups? Or does this transition occur when maize is first introduced a millennium earlier? Whatever the case, there are at least four (some authors say five distinctive cultural areas) in Arizona that adapted to their distinctive ecological niches: the Anasazi of the Colorado Plateau, The Hohokam of the Sonoran Desert region, the Mogollon of the southeastern mountain and the Chihuahua desert region, the Sinagua in the central transitional range, and the Patayan in the northwestern part of the Basin Range Region. Each of these cultures will be dealt with briefly in this overview. For a more detailed analysis of your region a bibliography and summary will be covered at a later date.

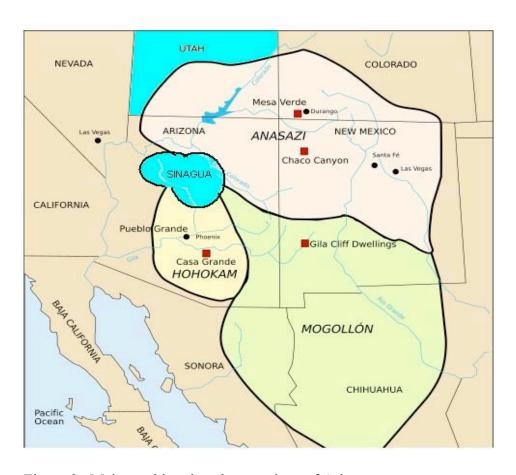


Figure 8. Major prehistoric culture regions of Arizona.

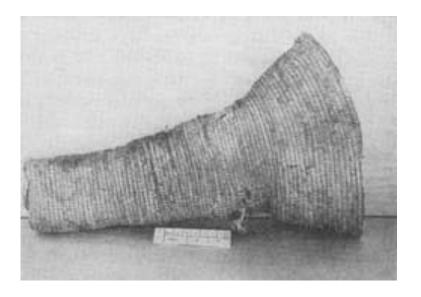


Figure 9. Examples of Anasazi basketry. Both photos courtesy of NPS.



The Anasazi resided in the Four Corners region of the state. They entered what is now Arizona around two thousand years ago. The Arizona group of the Anasazi is known as the Kayenta. Traditionally, they are generally divided into two parts: the earlier Basket Makers and the later Pueblo. The Anasazi are best known for their elaborate cliff dwellings that were built during this later period.

Due to the dry climate of the region, many of the baskets from which the earlier period takes its name are wellpreserved. They are woven of different grasses, some of which were dyed to create intricate patterns.

Most Anasazi pots were made with rounded bottoms. Pots were made from sandstone and shale clay and often decorated in black or red geometric designs.



Figure 11. Anasazi Pueblo II Pottery.

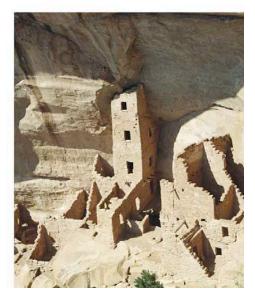


Figure 10. Mesa Verde cliff dwelling

Points were made of obsidian and cherts and were smaller than earlier periods. The Anasazi discontinued the adhesive technology for attaching the point to the shaft that was used during the later part of the Archaic

The cultural chronology is (with some argument) as follows:

Basketmaker I-III (1200 BC-AD 750) is a horticultural society that had increasing sedentism as it progressed from BM I-III.

Pueblo I (AD 750-950) had large pit house villages.

Pueblo II (AD 950-1150) was the florescence of Chaco Canyon in NM and their elaborate pottery and complex religious/trade networks that extended into northern Arizona.

Pueblo III (AD 1150-1300) saw the rise and decline of the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings. They were noted for their trade with other regions of Arizona.

SINAGUA

Dates vary, but the Sinagua are believed to have inhabited the Verde Valley all the way north to Flagstaff from approximately AD 500 to 600 through AD 1300 to 1450.

The Sinagua were distinct from the better-known cultures to the north, east, and south of them much in the same way Baltic States in Europe had close trade and cultural traditions but remained separate entities.

Trade was important as they sat at the intersection of three major cultures and they exchanged decorated pottery, shell jewelry, copper bells and many other items.

Initially known for their pit houses, they later built large cliff dwellings such as Montezuma's Castle shown at right. Their ritual places included kivas and, at least for a time, Hohokam-style ball courts.

The Sinagua dry-farmed maize, beans, and squash. They made catchment basins and irrigation canals to aid in their subsistence level agriculture. Examples of their farming tools can be seen at left.

The Sinagua pottery was a brown, red, and buff pottery (Alameda Brown Ware), made from local clays and manufactured with a paddle-and-anvil technique.

Sinagua points were made out of local obsidian and cherts and tended to be small and triangular in shape.

By the mid A.D. 1400s, the Sinagua left the Verde Valley. They most likely migrated north to become some of the ancestors of the Hopi. Possible reasons include environmental degradation caused by volcanic activity and collapse of the surrounding societies with



Figure 12. Montezuma's Castle Photo courtesy of MCNM.



Figure 13. Sinagua tools. Photo courtesy of the Coconino National Forest. Service.



Figure 14. Sinagua pottery. Photo courtesy of NPS.

HOHOKAM

Traditionally, there are four general periods to the Hohokam. The Pioneer/Formative Period (AD 1-750) was characterized by some villages with waddle and daub (mud and sticks) architecture shaped much like a bee hive. They had some trade and began making pottery around AD 300.

The Colonial Phase in the Preclassic Period (AD 750-1050/1150) had larger villages houses centered around a common courtyard/work area. Ballcourts first appear during this time. The red on buff pottery has an iron stained slip, a liquid clay that was placed over the container to add a decorative element. Irrigation on a small scale was used.

The Sedentary Phase (AD 950-1050/1150): Irrigation canals and habitations became larger. (See photo at right.) House design changed into post reinforced pit houses, covered with adobe. Shell, stone, and bone jewelry is more evident. Cotton textile work flourished and spindle whorls are a common artifact from this period. Platform mounds similar to those in central Mexico appear. Trade items from the Mayan and Toltec regions are brought in by diffused trading.

The Classic Period (AD 1050/1150-1450) actually seems to show a decrease in influence of the Hohokam and increase in more defensible village sites such as Casa Grande. Trade decreased with Mexico but increased with the Pueblo communities to the north. Points are small and suitable for hunting small game.

Between AD 1350 and 1375, the Hohokam abandon many of their largest settlements. It appears that rapidly changing climatic conditions substantially impacted the Hohokam agricultural base. Additionally a population influx from both the north and south may have overburdened the Hohokam communities. Salinization of canals may also have played a part in the ability of the Hohokam to feed a large sedentary population at this time.

In the northwest region of the state the Patayan groups appear to be heavily influenced by if not directly descended from the Hohokam



Fig.15. A Hohokam canal. Photo courtesy of Arizona State Museum University of Arizona. H. Teiwes, Photographer



Fig. 16. Hohokam red-on-buff pottery. Photo courtesy of NPS.



Fig. 17. Hohokam projectile point. Photo courtesy of Pueblo Grande Museum



Fig. 18. Model of Mogollon pit house. Photo courtesy of Los Cruces Museum.

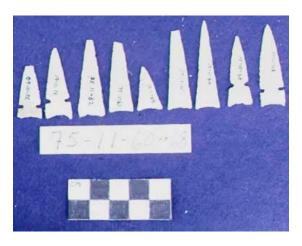


Fig. 19. Mogollon Projectile Points. Photo courtesy of Dr Jefferson Reid



Fig. 20 (above). Mimbres pottery Photo courtesy of NPS.

Fig 21(at left). Mogollon plainware Photo courtesy of Desert USA.

MOGOLLON

The Mogollon were the last of the four major pre historic cultures to develop in Arizona. Their origin is uncertain but they are probably directly descended from the regional desert archaic groups. They existed as a distinct culture from AD 150 to approximately 1400.

The Mogollon lived in pithouses such as the one modeled at left. They had fortified villages but did not live in cliffs as did the Anasazi with whom there seems to have been close trade and social interactions. Remains of a pit house site will frequently be only postmolds and burnt clay.

While the Mogollon did farm they are not characterized by their dependence on agriculture as are the other three major cultures in Arizona. Hunting and gathering continued to form an active component of their diet. Points were designed for mid-sized game such as deer and elk. Bison was also hunted. The points were made of local cherts.

The best known of the regional variants of the Mogollon is the Mimbres. They are known for their beautifully made and highly decorative polychromatic pottery. This variant existed between AD 825-1150. However, their plain brownware pottery is more commonly found on sites.

By the mid 1300s, more heavily Anasaziinfluenced sites such as Grasshopper Ruins occurred. Within two generations, however, these societies collapsed and moved farther westward to become part of the Hopi ancestral lineage.



PROTO-HISTORIC

For the purposes of this handbook the proto-historic falls into the beginning of the sixteenth century and extends into the mid-18th century. During this time period, there is little direct historic documentation of the groups living in Arizona. However, European influences are felt most notably through disease-forced migration from the south. Additionally, the introduction of non-native, Old World species occurs. These new variables greatly effected the development of native populations. Over a two hundred and fifty year period there was a score of explorers who left behind some evidence of their passage other than disease and their bones. Along these routes you might find bits of metal or European salt and tin glazed pottery.

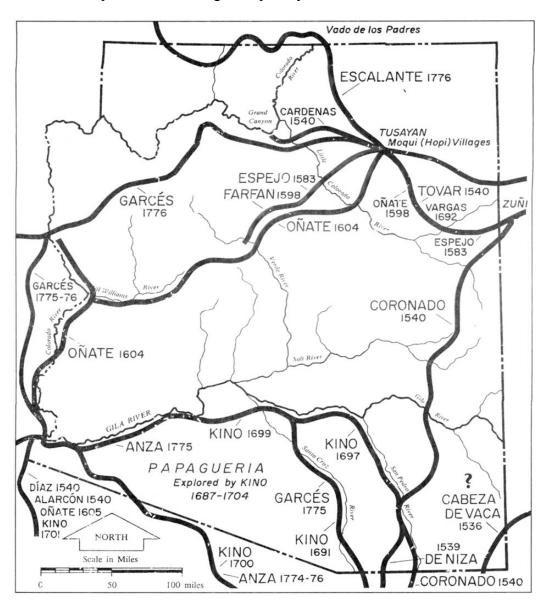


Figure 22. Early Spanish Explorer Routes.

Map courtesy National Park Service.

HISTORIC—OLD WORLD

The historic period officially begins with the founding of Tubac in 1752 by the Spanish. At this time, the history of Arizona becomes increasingly documented. Important dates are highlighted in the Timeline that follows this section. But, this section will cover the types of artifacts and sites. The primary cultural influences in Arizona at this time are Spanish and American. To a lesser degree, one can find Chinese, British, Japanese, and French artifacts and sites.

Among the ceramic artifacts, hand-painted, salt and tin glazed earthewares, such as majolicas, are found at 18th and early 19th century sites among the Spanish groups.

Among the American groups in the later part of the 19th century, transfer printed whitewares are most common ceramic; although, an occasional pearlware that may haven brought in "as grandmother's china" can be found.

Among the metals, while everyone might want to find gold and silver coins, it is far more likely that you'll find hand-wrought nails like those seen below in the 18th and early 19th century sites, while machine cut nails will be found at most later American sites.



Fig. 26. (above) 18th century hand-wrought nails. (at right) 19th century machine cut nails. Photos courtesy Univ. of Iowa.

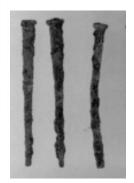




Fig. 23. Tubac Ruins. Photo courtesy of ASP.



Fig. 24 Mexican Majolicas. Photo courtesy of ASP

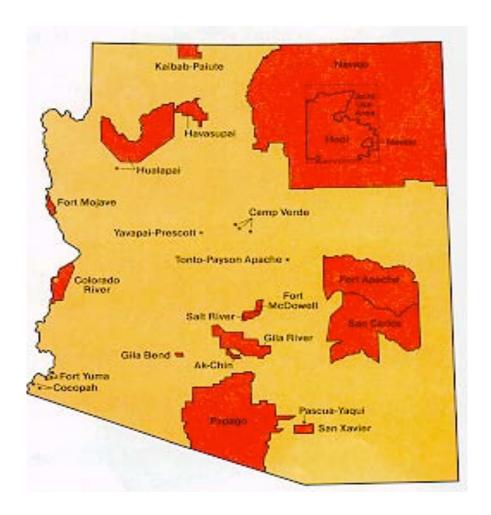


Fig. 25. Blue on white transfer print whiteware. Photo courtesy of ASP

HISTORIC—THE NATIVE VIEW

Around AD 1400, massive environmental and cultural changes took place that are not yet fully understood. The result is that by the 1700s the Hopi and Navajo people occupied the Colorado Plateau. The various Pai culture/language affiliates were located in the western part of the state. In the south, the Tohon Chul (formerly known as the Pima) and the Tohono O'odham (formerly known as the Papago) supplanted the Hohokam people. While by the 16th century, the Apaches were intermittent inhabitants in the central and southern part of the eastern half of the state.

Throughout the 19th and early 20th century, these groups developed arts such as rug making, silver crafting, beadwork, and basketry that became popular throughout the world. Many of these artifacts can be found on late historic sites. From the 16th through the 19th century there were alternating periods of trade and warfare between the European and Native cultures. This culminated with the establishment of the reservation system and the Indian schools system that would hasten the acculturation of native groups with Europeans in Arizona. The map below shows the locations of the major tribes in Arizona.



TIMELINE

12,000 BC Paleo Indians using Clovis tools migrate into what is now Arizona

10,500 BC Folsom groups sporadically inhabit Colorado Plateau region of Arizona

10,500 BC-7,500 BC Early Archaic becomes prominent in the Basin & Range region and later expands throughout the state.

8,500-7,500 BC Early Archaic Ventana Complex from southwest Arizona defined.

8,500-7,000 BC Early Archaic Cochise Culture from southeastern Arizona defined.

7,500-3,500 BC Middle Archaic/Altithermal tends to be found only on the Colorado Plateau

3,000 BC Middle Archaic repopulation of Arizona from Mexico takes place at the end of the altithermal.

2,000 BC First evidence of farming.

300 BC The Hohokam settle in Arizona.

1276 AD A great drought began.

1539 Marcos de Niza, a Franciscan priest, was the first white person to enter the Arizona region. He was on his way to hunt for the Seven Cities of Cibola.

1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado entered the Arizona region in search of the cities. He visited Hopi and Zuni villages.

1687 First permanent mission established in Arizona.

1752 The first white settlement was established at Tubac by the Spanish.

1776 Tucson becomes a Spanish fort.

1821 Mexico wins independence from Spain. The Arizona region became a part of Mexico.

1846 Mexican-American War

1848 The United States took control of the Arizona region when the war ended in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

1853 The United States made the Gadsden Purchase. It added the region south of the Gila River. It formed the present boundary between the United States and Mexico.

1861 A 25-year war with the Apache Indians began.

1862 During the Civil War the Confederacy sent troops to occupy the New Mexico and Arizona territory. Union troops defeated the confederates.

1863 The Confederate government created the Confederate territory of Arizona. Because of the previous defeat, this action meant little.

27 December 1863 John N. Goodwin became the territorial governor.

1864 Kit Carson led a campaign that defeated the Navajo.

1867 Farmers began irrigating their fields

1869 John Wesley Powell explored the Grand Canyon.

1870s Ranching became a large-scale business.

30 September 1877 The Southern Pacific Railroad entered Arizona.

4 September 1886 Geronimo, and Apache chief, surrendered after many years of attacks from both the Native Americans and the white settlers.

1911 The Theodore Roosevelt Dam was completed

14 February 1912 Arizona became a state.

